

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 161406Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6843

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9902

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, GR, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT GREECE

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR TO IRAN ECONOMOU TOLD DCM-DESIGNATE SEPT. 16 THAT GOI FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI AND MFA UNDESEC NADIM WOULD VISIT GREECE OCTOBER 15 TO 17. KHALATBARI WILL RETURN TO TEHRAN FROM NEW YORK IN TIME FOR GISCARD'S VISIT AND WILL LEAVE THERE OCT, 12 FOR SHORT VISIT IN TUNISIA BEFORE GREECE.

2. ECONOMOU EXPECTS ONLY GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND NO DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS FROM KHALATBARI'S VISIT, WHICH RECIPROCATES GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' TRIP TO TEHRAN SOME MONTHS AGO. HE SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN GOI AND GOG ARE STEADILY IMPROVING AND NOTED IRAN WAS HELPFUL TO GREECE ON AEGEAN QUESTION AT SECURITY COUNCIL. HE BELIEVES IRANIANS ARE COOLING ON TURKS, DESPITE FACT THEY ARE ALLIES AND FELLOW MOSLEMS, AND THAT GOI IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH THEIR RELIABILITY. AT SAME TIME, GOI HAS BEGUN TO RECOGNIZE GREECE AS "AN ELEMENT OF STABILITY IN TROUBLED EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN."

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SELF-INTEREST IN ECONOMOU'S REMARKS IS OBVIOUS, THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME VALIDITY IN THEM. TURKISH-IRANIAN RELATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN HELPED BY RECENT TRANSIT
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DIFFICULTIES AND CONTINUED TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE IN CYPRUS,

WHILE GOI UNDOUBTEDLY HOPES GREEKS CAN BE HELPFUL IN IRAN'S
ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN PREFERENTIALNIEC TRADING ARRANGEMENTS.
KUBISCH

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